

CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

61-1014

3 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Review of Merits of CIA Alumni Association

1. You will recall that not long ago you and I discussed the possibility of establishing some sort of an alumni organization of former employees of CIA somewhat along the lines of the association of former agents of the FBI. You asked that I explore this idea and advise you of the results. I have done so and wish to advise that it is generally believed that a formal and public establishment of an alumni organization for CIA would not be advisable or productive, but on the other hand, it was generally agreed that we could make better use of our former employees than we are doing today.

2. I convened a meeting of representatives from the three Deputies, plus those offices that would be most directly concerned with such a venture. Present were Colonel Edwards, representing the DD/S and Office of Security, [redacted] representing the Personnel Office, [redacted] representing the DD/I, and [redacted] representing the DD/P. and Colonel Grogan to represent the public relations viewpoint.

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It was generally agreed that a public and overt organization was

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not consistent with the general character of the Central Intelligence Agency and that there would be a large number of personnel not only from the DD/P area, but even from other parts of the Agency who would not want to be associated with any public organization. It was noted that almost inevitably such an organization would attract a large number of the former employees who were either let go as security risks or for incompetence. It was recognized that even though the FBI organization does discriminate in those that they allow to join, this always poses a problem. Under the circumstances it was felt that the ability to create an organization and hold it together would pose more problems than the effort would justify.

3. On the other hand, it was agreed by all present that we could undoubtedly make better use of our former employees, particularly those whom we would like to have work with us again in the event of a national emergency, than we are doing today. We believe that we should devise a better system for listing those employees who have left or will leave the Agency, whom we would like to have return. Following this, we believe that use should be made of the Contact Division field offices in keeping in touch with these individuals and their future locations. While the Contact Division field offices could maintain liaison on a normal basis, we also feel that the occasion of visits by senior

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Agency officials to various parts of the country could be used for informal observations of these people in order to maintain and encourage their interest in the Agency.

4. I will continue to follow this effort and see if we can't make something of it.



Lyman B. Kirkpatrick  
Inspector General

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cc: DDCI

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